RUSSIAN MILLIONS

Continuing for North American Readers for the Duration of the European War; as from January 1941,

EDITOR

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The Friend of Russians
OFFICIAL ORGAN of the Russian Missionary Society, Inc.
U.S.A. GR. BRITAIN AUSTRALIA CANADA GERMANY SWITZERLAND HOLLAND FOR RUSSIANS

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STOP PRESS

NIGHT-LETTER CABLE FROM LONDON

received stating that the INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS of the Russian Missionary Society have been

"ENTIRELY BURNED OUT"

THIS MEANS that all correspondence, records, machinery, stencils, addresses of subscribers have been lost and that a new Headquarter Office must be built up on a bare foundation. (It also means that our International Secretary, Rev. F. J. Miles has lost all his personal property, including his study containing the results of nearly fifty years ministry.)

This constitutes a clamant call and clarion challenge to those of us in the overseas sections of the Russian Missionary Society. Because "the lines are fallen unto us in pleasant places and we have a goodly heritage," we must bend every nerve and energy—we must pray and pay and practice to provide for the work on the field that can no longer be supported by friends in the British Isles and London.

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FLASHES FROM THE FIELD

compiled by Miss Melanie Fetler, in charge of the Chicago Office. deputation Secretary for North America.

EUROPE

FINLAND. We are happy to report that we are now supporting two additional workers, Mr. and Mrs. Michail Smirnoff, in Finland, where they are free to carry on evangelistic work. They come to us with the most hearty commendation. They are cultured and fully qualified to reach both the intelligentsia and "the common people (who) heard Him gladly." We shall unite in prayer that many may hear gladly and respond to the Gospel appeal through their ministry.

FRANCE. I received your letter to-day, and a few days ago the money sent through S. I can take only the money for Sister M.Y., but not the letter, as it is forbidden to take letters, especially for others, over the demarkation line. I will pass on your message to her verbally. I am in a place in unoccupied France near the Swiss border. It seems that it is not possible yet to write from America to my permanent address near Paris. Our Sister M.Y. is still alive and well, also her sisters, and they live in the same old place in . . . Everything there is intact. The city did not suffer during the last year's war in France, as it was surrendered without resistance. Our Russian church is found also here in the unoccupied part: there are numbers of separate churches and a great number of individual members, some of them are in the occupied part, and in Belgium, and Lorraine which is entirely cut off from us. I am spending my week-ends in one or the other place with the believers, holding spiritually educational and Gospel meetings. During the week I have to attend to my enormous correspondence. When everything is more or less arranged and settled and the brethren in the north need means for living, I go to Paris. There again we have services in the capital and in the province. Church life and Gospel work—praise the Lord—are going on without any hindrance by the Government, almost as before the war. Only formerly we used to print religious literature and tens of thousands of copies were distributed regularly not only on our own direct mission field, but also in 45 different countries on all 5 continents. At present the printing of this material has been stopped on account of material difficulties. We are using up the old supply which we have in stock. Praise God—**WE STILL HAVE BIBLES, NEW TESTAMENTS AND OTHER LITERATURE FOR CHRISTIANS AND SINNERS.**

BELGIUM. Brother Charles G. is working as before—energetically and joyfully and his work is progressing. He recently informed us about new interest for God among the people. Today in his letter of January 31 he gives some information about

LATVIA. The names of seven of our workers are mentioned that they are still alive and are working as much as possible (?) on the mission field. Only bro. X is in prison since July; he was near to death, but there seems to be some hope for him now. Please pray earnestly for him, and also for all other Christians there.

G. U.

Acknowledgments and hearty thanks for support have been received also from **BULGARIA, FINLAND, HARBIN, POLAND.**

BULGARIA Rev. Moses Prokopoff, our Superintendent in Bulgaria, wrote to Dr. W. K. Fenton, our Canadian Treasurer, as follows:—

Allow me first please to introduce myself. I am a spiritual son of Canada. I was born spiritually on the 15th of November, 1913 in Montreal. The place was Possencharle, in the Second Baptist Church. On the 17th of April, 1914 I entered in Holy Communion with the Lord and the same year on the 24th of April I went to Cornwall where I worked in a factory and in the same time for two and a half years I did some good work for the Lord Jesus among the Slavic population.

AS A RESULT OF MY LABOUR SEVERAL PEOPLE WERE CONVERTED. I am glad to say that some of them up to this day serve the Lord and preach the Gospel in America and Canada.

In 1916 I left Canada and entered the Russian Bible Institute in Philadelphia. I graduated in 1920 and was sent to Europe as a missionary among the Russians. In 1921 I was in Romania where I worked very successfully six months, but the orthodox and catholic priests united against my work. They made good use of their authority before the political men of the country, for I was arrested and thrown into prison, where I remained for nine months. English and American friends intervened and I was released but expelled from Romania.

The Lord opened another door for me. In the same year I came to Bulgaria, where I found great liberty for preaching the gospel. Here I have worked ever since under the care and with the financial support of the R.M.S. The Treasurer in Chief, Mr. Charles Phillips, from London, sent me regularly my support, but the war created new unsurpassable difficulties. The latter increased since Italy joined Germany. For three months, I have not heard from London. No need to tell you how critical my position is. This is the reason of my writing to you. Dear brother, may I hope to receive some help from you? Please think of me and my family and remember us in our great need.

I believe that God will help England and that he will give due reward to the enemies of every justice in the world.

God bless you and all his children in these difficult times.

This letter was mailed before we arranged to send support to the Bulgarian workers from Chicago. This is now cabled at regular intervals.—Ed.

POLAND. FEBRUARY 4, 1941. Received in Chicago on March 4, 1941.

We are all well. I live with my family in Konstancin, and I go from here every day to Warsaw. All our orphan-girls are well, and send you all their best regards. Our Home in Konstancin is all occupied, but the inhabitants don't pay any rent.

Meetings in our Prayer Hall on Pulawska are held regularly. With the money which you are sending me, I will pay the rent, but three months yet will remain unpaid. We are so thankful to God that we could keep this place. All services are well attended. We thank you for your support. May God repay it to you all for all the encouragement received.

Our missionary W. Sobolew is working in Warsaw and vicinity. His home visiting work is blessed especially. Bro. Kaplicz is in Lyszkow, and conducts choir courses. He needs your help. Bro. B. is no more in his old place: he has gone to Aristarchus (in Siberian exile. Ed.). S. and P. are in their old places, but cannot do religious work (in Soviet Poland. Ed.) I receive very little news from our missionaries on the Russian side. Their lot must be hard, and they need our prayers. Greetings from us all: Gordiejew, Jefimowicz, Sobolew, Kaplicz, the Orphan-girls and myself and family.

FEBRUARY 13, received March 24.

I received your gift for our mission work—900 zloty. Heartiest thanks for this support. It was a great help. I hope you received my letter of Feb. 4. I am sending this letter per air-mail as I could not get the permit to send a cable. Bro. G. is working with great blessing. Recently they had 2 weeks Bible conference. The church cannot pay him anything, except room and board. On Pulawska the meetings are blessed. **TEN PERSONS RECENTLY DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS.** Brother S. and myself are doing visiting work to pray

with the seeking souls and read to them the Word of God. We have a number of poor people in our church who need urgent help, especially old widows and children. Bro K. gives all his time to preaching, and is very successful. **SEVERAL HAVE SURRENDERED TO CHRIST.**

This week I had again news from Bro. J. P. He lives in his old place, but cannot do his old work (preaching Ed.). Bro. S-n lives in a hut and is occupied with spinning to keep himself and family alive. He is also visiting the believers in their huts.

MARCH 8, received April 2, 1941.

YOUR SUPPORT ARRIVED SAFELY—hearty thanks from us all. This week my wife and I visited the orphan girls whom we had placed in families in Warsaw and vicinity. They are all well—praise God. We must take care of some of them and provide underwear, clothes and school expenses.

THE GOSPEL MEETINGS IN OUR WARSAW CHURCH BROUGHT MUCH BLESSING. Though our Prayer hall was not very warm (lack of coal), yet many came to listen to the word. We are doing numerous house visitations. **TEN MORE PERSONS ACCEPTED JESUS AS THEIR PERSONAL SAVIOUR AND HAVE STARTED A NEW LIFE. BRO. G.** is active as preacher in the Russian church in K. He had two weeks' Bible conference for the deepening of spiritual life. Bro. K. is working with great blessing in L., especially among the young people. Recently he organized "a wonderfully nice choir,"* that helps him in visiting the villages. Bro. J. is now very weak, needs good care. We have a number in our church who need urgent help. Bro. S. and family also need assistance. **PLEASE DO NOT FORGET US:** pray for us and help us! Heartiest greetings from us all to all God's Children in America!

L. JESAKOW

*Literal Translation.—Ed.

Bro. Jesakow as our Superintendent of the Polish missionaries still receives news from the workers in Soviet Poland. They seem to be robbed of almost all their freedom: some have been exiled, others must do secular work, but even then they do not give up the care of souls. They need our fervent prayers for their safety and material needs. For the time-being we cannot send them any support, as we are able to send to those in German occupied Poland.—Ed.

UNITED STATES

"Emmanuel" Bohemian Baptist Church

The Lord has blessed us and **GAVE US FIVE SOULS LATELY,** who accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.—One of them a woman who lost a daughter about 12 years old; for this darling of hers she grieved so much, that she tried to commit suicide twice; she grieved so much that she almost went insane. But in her sorrow she began to read the Bible and became more and more interested in God's Word. She came to our services, with the result that **SHE GAVE HER HEART TO JESUS AND ACCEPTED HIM AS HER PERSONAL SAVIOUR.** Now she testifies to her husband and is anxious to lead him to Christ.—

Another old lady "Grandmother," **WHO'S DAUGHTER WAS SAVED AND RIGHT AWAY TESTIFIED TO HER MOTHER AND BROUGHT HER TO OUR SERVICES,** and though she has spent already most of her life in the errors of the Roman Catholic Church, **EVEN SHE HAS FOUND THE "TRUTH"** and now the joy of her heart is radiating through her face.

Third was a young man who grew up in a worldly home but came to our services and one Sunday evening **ACCEPTED CHRIST AS HIS PERSONAL SAVIOUR.**

Fourth was a young lady, who also came from a worldly Godless home whose mother wanted her to go to dances and worldly pleasures, but **SHE FOUND BETTER JOY IN HER SAVIOUR** and now teaches a S.S. Class.

The fifth soul was a lad who decided in his youth to follow the Master and so **CONSECRATED HIS WHOLE LIFE TO THE LORD.**

All these and two Ukrainian Sisters were baptized the same Sunday evening, for which we praise the Lord.

The Emmanuel Bohemian Baptist Church located at 2520 South Lawndale Avenue serves a great Bohemian neighborhood on the west side in Chicago.

This church conducted a contest among the three Sunday Schools of their church. They were the Sunday Schools of the Junior Department, Senior Department and of their Hamlin Mission.

The aims of this Sunday School Contest were to have every scholar bring his Bible, be on time and to bring new scholars.

The enrollment was built up in all three Sunday Schools, almost every scholar brought their Bible every Sunday morning and a large number of new scholars were brought in who never before attended any Sunday School, and every scholar tried his utmost to be on time.

Each Sunday School received points for the above things mentioned and scholars as well as teachers were awarded pins or buttons for every new scholar that they brought.

Many of the teachers of all three Sunday Schools took this good work to heart and spent many evenings doing visitation work, canvassing the neighborhood around the Sunday Schools and Church and were encouraged in seeing new scholars coming to their Sunday School. **MANY OF THE YOUNGER TEACHERS WHO NEVER DID HOUSE-TO-HOUSE VISITATION WORK BEFORE WERE THRILLED AT THE RESPONSE** of both parents and children and said that they experienced a great blessing in doing this kind of personal work.

In many cases material needs were learned, and clothes given away. Good was accomplished not only in bringing children to Sunday School, but **IN SPEAKING WITH MEN AND WOMEN ABOUT THEIR SOUL'S SALVATION** and leaving tracts in every home that was visited.

ALOIS SIXTA

Last summer I had opportunity to work among the Russians in **NORTH DAKOTA.** There I taught the Summer Vacation Bible School and did some evangelistic work among five Baptist Churches. I still have a sweet memory about the wonderful experiences in the Lord's work.*

Upon my return to Chicago, I came immediately in contact with a very nice group of the Ukrainian Baptists, who, as I soon found out, have a great zeal for spreading the Gospel among their people. Very soon they asked me to take charge of their work. Now I am very happy to work among them. I preach two or three times a week and do home visitings, speaking to the people about salvation. Thus I have found many a time some souls thirsty and hungry for the truth. Recently we had the joy of baptizing **TWO SOULS WHO HAD ACCEPTED THE LORD JESUS AS THEIR PERSONAL SAVIOR.** This occasion revived in my memory many blessed experiences on the mission field in Poland, where I worked for about four years as a missionary of the Russian Missionary Society.

I am also happy to say that there is seen among the Russian and the Ukrainian Baptists **A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL COOPERATION.** We are visiting each other's churches with the same purpose of leading souls to Christ. We are happy to realize that the Lord is blessing our work.

Yours in the Lord's service,

DANIEL SHEIDA

*Pray for Brother Schroeder working among Russian Groups in N. Dakota.—Ed.

CHICAGO—APRIL 26 AND 27 IN RUSSIAN CHURCH (2705 W. 15th St.) While the youth in Europe is forced to serve the dictates of human will bent on destruction, the youth in America, thank God, can serve the dictates of Divine will that directs the youth to serve the fellow men. In cooperation with our Ukrainian Baptists in Chicago, we had three glorious gospel services in our church presented by the Russian-Ukrainian Baptist Young People of Detroit, Michigan. The meetings were well attended and enjoyed by all. Many young talents participated in the services and **MANY YOUNG PEOPLE WERE MOVED IN THEIR CONSCIENCES BY THE APPEAL OF CHRIST'S LOVE TO MEN.** At each service we had many musical features and then two addresses delivered by the young people on the subject chosen.

N. I. SIBERIAKOFF.

CHINA

HARBIN, Manchukuo

New Russian Prayer House

Dedicated November 10th, 1940

Referred to in our last issue. Russian Evangelicals do not confuse the fabric of the building with the body of Christ. They do not refer to a building as a ''church.''

CHICAGO SPRING RALLY

of The Russian Missionary Society

The Rev. W. Alfred Diman and the officers of the 2nd Baptist Church kindly extended to us gracious and generous hospitality on the occasion of our Spring Rally on March 27. A very fine meeting resulted, with an attractive program. The Pastor voiced a welcome and handed the meeting over to the Rev. J. F. Holliday, B.A., the Chairman of the N. American Board who gave a telling and thrilling address on the challenging commission of our Lord to His church.

It was a special privilege to have the Fetler Family Band with us. They delighted us with many vocal and instrumental numbers, centering round **RUSSIA, RUSSIANS** and **RELIGION.** Miss M. N. Fetler, our U. S. A. representative, was present in Latvian National costume, gave a short address and was commended to church representatives present as an excellent speaker, especially to Women's meetings, having passed through the sufferings of the Soviet Revolution, etc.

The International Secretary, Colonel the Rev. F. J. Miles, D.S.O., in a series of vivid word pictures presented remarkable facts and figures which revealed that ''God IS over all blessed for ever'', that ''the Lord God omnipotent reigneth'', that ''He makes the wrath of man to praise Him'' and that He produces propaganda and progress from persecution on the Russian Field. Several of our own and other evangelists representing **RUSSIAN, LATVIAN, UKRAINIAN, BULGARIAN** and **BOHEMIAN** work in U.S.A. were present; while warm words of encouragement were read from Church leaders who were unavoidably absent—such as the beloved Principal of Wheaton College. So we raised our ''Ebenezer'' and took new heart and hope for facing and meeting the ever-increasing calls and claims that come to us from the Slavic Races Field at Home and abroad.

IN THE EVENT OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS, please notify us both your old and new address so that we may continue to send you the magazine without interruption.

WHAT OUR FRIENDS WRITE!

Miss Fetler, Lockhart is 9 miles from Orlando, so when I received your letter stating that Col. Miles was in Orlando, I hiked there and had a very pleasant visit with the Colonel.

I am only a very common citizen; AM PAST 85, but I do enjoy such visits. ENCLOSED FIND $5.00 FOR YOUR WORK and may the Lord bless the efforts the Russian Mission is putting forth.

J. K., Lockhart, Florida.

I am glad to know through the "Friend of Russians" that YOU ARE STILL ABLE TO SEND FUNDS TO THE NEEDY MISSIONARIES of the R. M. S. Before Christmas I wanted to send you something, but my dear mother had been sick and on Christmas day she was called home. She was a wonderful Christian, and the memory of her is sweet indeed. Had she lived until April 17 she would have been 100 YEARS old. The last 4 years she had been upstairs and suffered a good deal but she had wonderful patience and always lived her Christianity, having given her heart to Jesus when she was just a girl. Her life was an outstanding testimony to the saving and keeping power of our Christ.

I AM ENCLOSING $10.00 TO HELP SOME MISSIONARY who may be in such dire need, you will know best where to send it. A FEW WEEKS AGO I WAS SURE I WOULD HAVE TO BUY NEW GLASSES, BUT THE DOCTOR INFORMED ME THAT THOSE I HAVE NOW, WILL DO FOR SOME TIME YET, THAT IS WHY I CAN SEND THIS MONEY. It will make me happy if it will help someone in these dark days of war.

M. F., Philadelphia, Pa.

ENCLOSED YOU WILL FIND A CHECK FOR $6.00. Three of it is from a dear Christian who gave it IN MEMORY OF HER NEPHEW who was killed a year ago, and she wants it used for His glory. We have always been interested in the work you are doing. The other $3.00 is our own offering to the work. Our own work is ruined for the time-being by the aggressions of the enemy (Serbian Mission, Inc., at work in Jugoslavia).

W. E. B.

"The Friend of Russians" should rather be called "THE FRIEND OF THE OPPRESSED".

J. K.

"TO THE JEW FIRST"

What Do You Know About "The Children of Israel"

The total of baptisms from among the Hebrews during the Nineteenth Century amounted to 224,000. There is one Protestant Hebrew convert to every 156 of the Jewish population. The proportion from all other non-Christian religions together is one to every 525. If the in-gathering from the Heathen and Moslem world had been in the same ratio as that from among the Children of Abraham, there would be a total of SEVEN MILLION CONVERTS FROM THE NON-CHRISTIAN GENTILE WORLD instead of the actual Two Million for the Nineteenth Century.

The Protestant Hebrew converts who enter the Christian Ministry are three times more numerous than those from the ranks of converts from all other Non-Christian faiths. At least 750 Protestant Jewish converts are daily engaged in preaching the Gospel of Christ Jesus as their one business in life. MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF THE 16 MILLIONS JEWS IN THE WORLD ARE ON THE RUSSIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY FIELD.

CANADIAN READERS will have wondered why their copies of the first two issues of this new magazine reached them so late. The first Bulletin we sent out had to carry an import tax stamp. When it was decided to issue "Russian Millions", we applied for exemption on the ground that this little periodical was a nonprofit, religious paper. This was in harmony with Dominion Postal and Customs regulations. There was great delay; so much so that we offered to pay the tax so that Canadian readers might get the issue already printed. We were advised not to "prejudice" the position as it was anticipated that the exemption would be granted. We deeply deplore the delay but are confident that Canadian friends will appreciate this "war-time" difficulty. We are assured, too, that if, lacking information, they have not sent in their usual aid, they will hasten to communicate with 259 Aberdeen Ave., Hamilton, Ontario; remembering "that the time is short" and "the time is shortening." (I Corinth. 7, 29.)